

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic bracket comprising:
a body including a lingual surface for attachment to a tooth and having an archwire slot;
at least two tie wings coupled to the body and defining a space therebetween, the body and the tie wings collectively forming a ~~labial surface having a notch formed therein;~~ notch in the labial surface that extends mesio-distally across the body substantially the same length as the archwire slot; and

a locking shutter having a stem positioned in the space between the tie wings and movable between an open position where access to the archwire slot is permitted and a closed position where access to the archwire slot is inhibited.

42. (Previously presented) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 41, wherein the tie wings are gingival tie wings.

43. (Previously Presented) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 42, further comprising at least two occlusal tie wings.

44. (Previously Presented) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 41, wherein the shutter further includes an arm coupled to the stem, wherein the arm is wider than the stem to form a T-shaped locking shutter, and wherein the arm is positioned in the archwire slot when the locking shutter is in the closed position.

45. (Previously presented) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 44, wherein the arm includes an end having a labial surface that is concave.
46. (Previously presented) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 41, wherein the archwire slot includes a second notch, and wherein the shutter includes an end that is positioned in the second notch when the shutter is in the closed position.
47. (Previously Presented) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 41, wherein the locking shutter is pivotally coupled to the body.
48. (Previously presented) An orthodontic bracket comprising:
a body including a lingual surface for attachment to a tooth and having an archwire slot;
at least two tie wings coupled to the body and defining a space therebetween; and
a locking shutter having a stem positioned in the space between the tie wings and movable between an open position where access to the archwire slot is permitted and a closed position where access to the archwire slot is inhibited, wherein the shutter includes an end that is positioned in the archwire slot when the shutter is in the closed position, the end including a labial surface that is concave about an axis that is parallel to a mesio-distal axis.
49. (Previously presented) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 48, wherein the tie wings are gingival tie wings.
50. (Previously Presented) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 49, further comprising at least two occlusal tie wings.
51. (Previously Presented) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 48, wherein the shutter further includes an arm coupled to the stem, wherein the arm is wider than the stem to form a T-shaped locking shutter, and wherein the arm is positioned in the archwire slot when the locking shutter is in the closed position.

52. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 48, wherein the archwire slot includes a notch, and wherein the end of the shutter ~~includes an end that~~ is positioned in the notch when the shutter is in the closed position.

53. (Previously Presented) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 48, wherein the locking shutter is pivotally coupled to the body.

54. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic bracket comprising:
a body including a lingual surface for attachment to a tooth and having an archwire slot having a sidewall including a notch;
a notch formed into the sidewall of the archwire slot and extending medio-distally across the body substantially the same length as the archwire slot;
at least two tie wings coupled to the body and defining a space therebetween; and
a locking shutter having a stem positioned in the space between the tie wings and movable between an open position where access to the archwire slot is permitted and a closed position where access to the archwire slot is inhibited, wherein the shutter includes an end that is positioned in the notch when the shutter is in the closed position.

55. (Previously presented) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 54, wherein the tie wings are gingival tie wings.

56. (Previously Presented) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 55, further comprising at least two occlusal tie wings.

57. (Previously Presented) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 54, wherein the shutter further includes an arm coupled to the stem, wherein the arm is wider than the stem to form a T-shaped locking shutter, and wherein the arm is positioned in the archwire slot when the locking shutter is in the closed position.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously Presented) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 54, wherein the locking shutter is pivotally coupled to the body.